

## The Vision Thing

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It all started with a vision. Around thirty years ago, William S. Richardson ("CJ") had a vision: a law school in Hawai'i that would provide an opportunity for a first-class legal education to Hawai'i residents who were unable to go to the mainland for law school; a law school that would prepare generations of Hawai'i residents for leadership positions in business, government, and law; and a law school that would serve as a center of legal expertise for the State for law reform efforts.

Visions seldom materialize spontaneously. It took years of hard work by CJ and others to convince the state legislature to establish the school. For the first 25 years, the success of CJ's vision was primarily dependent upon the hard work of the faculty, staff, students, administration, and alumni of the law school. It was their efforts that built the quality and subsequent reputation of the school and its graduates.

Twenty-five years later, in 1998, the success of CJ's vision is evident to all: a top-tier law school, committed to public service that has literally changed the face of the Hawai'i bar. Moreover, it is also clear that this is a vision that has withstood the test of time. This vision is just as inspiring today as it was then.

Why should an alum or a member of our community give to the law school? I can think of at least two compelling reasons: giving back and investing in the future. Alumni give back because it was the law school that provided them with the skills with which they are now making a living. Non-alumni attorneys are giving back to the community, through the law school, for the benefits they have enjoyed over the years as lawyers in Hawai'i. Friends and alumni also give to the school as an investment in the future of Hawai'i, for they recognize that education is the key to our succeeding as a state.

The future of the law school is in your hands; share in the vision, give back to the community and the law school; invest in the future of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa.

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